

# ABSTRACT

A process for producing powder, flakes, or pellets  
5 containing  $\alpha$ -sulfo fatty acid alkylester salt in high  
concentrations, the process including: (1) a step of  
preparing a paste containing  $\alpha$ -sulfo fatty acid alkylester  
salt by a series of reactions of sulfonating a fatty acid  
alkylester with a sulfonating gas by contact with each other,  
10 esterifying the sulfonated product with a lower alcohol,  
neutralizing the esterified product, and bleaching the  
neutralized product, to give a paste containing  $\alpha$ -sulfo fatty  
acid alkylester salt; (2) a step of aging the thus obtained  
paste; (3) a step of making the aged paste into flakes or  
15 pellets containing equal to or less than 10 wt% of water, or  
a step of making the aged paste into flakes or pellets  
containing equal to or less than 10 wt% of water and then  
crushing the resulting flakes or pellets into a powder having  
an average particle diameter of 100-1500  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and (4) a step  
20 of aging the powder, flakes, or pellets.